



# FIRE NEWS

## BLM Alaska Fire Service

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## Wildland Fire Seasonal Outlook

Ft. Wainwright, AK — The wildland fire season is upon us. As of Thursday, April 26, thirteen human-caused fires had occurred. The 2012 Alaska Seasonal Outlook developed by the Fire Weather Program staff at the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center is forecasting the potential for early season fires in the Interior and northern Alaska as average. Due to the heavy snowfall south of the Alaska Range this year, conditions there favor a late start for fire season. The complete Alaska Seasonal Outlook and additional fire potential information is available at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/outlooks.php>.

June is typically Alaska's busiest month for wildland fires. Lightning occurrence peaks in June, and people enjoy our Alaska outdoors increasing the possibility of human-caused fires. As of June 1, 2011, 270 fires had occurred and 136,000 acres had burned; by July 1, that acreage had doubled. While wildland fire in many areas is nature's way of renewing and revitalizing the landscape, it is important to prevent human-caused fires that tend to occur in populated areas and to prepare for the possible threat of a wildland fire to your cabin, home or community. Alaska's 10-year (2002-2011) average occurrence is 500 wildland fires and 65 percent of those fires were human-caused.

Governor Parnell has declared April 30 – May 4 Wildland Fire Preparedness and Prevention Week to remind Alaskans to “prevent, prepare and be aware” of wildland fire. The Bureau of Land Management - Alaska Fire Service Manager Kent Slaughter commented that the Governor's message was particularly appropriate for this time of year and emphasizes an important element in fire occurrence, prevention and preparedness: the human being. “Each year, people unintentionally ignite wildland fires that nationwide cause taxpayers millions of dollars and also have an untold effect people's lives. Now is the time to prepare.” The Firewise Alaska brochure and other brochures and educational materials that provide homeowners and communities with helpful hints to prepare for a wildland fire in their neighborhood are available at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>

For more information about the seasonal outlook, contact the Fire Weather Program staff at the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center at 907-356-5591, or visit the BLM Alaska Fire Service website at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>.

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*The Bureau of Land Management - Alaska Fire Service provides wildland fire management services on an interagency basis for lands managed by U.S. Department of the Interior agencies, lands conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and lands withdrawn for use by the US. Army-Alaska.*